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## **TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)**

**Prepared for:  
Llandre**

**Tir Gofal Reference No: W/12/7431**



**DAT Report No. 2009/75  
Project Record No. 64982**

**Prepared by  
Mike Ings**

**Other documents enclosed:  
HLCAs 242 Cwrt-y-cadno; 246 Banc-llwynceilog**

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## **A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content**

#### **Historic Landscape Character**

The farm comprises two separate land holdings that lie within close proximity to one another in the community of Cynwyl Gaeo, Carmarthenshire. Only the main, home-farm holding was seen during the HE2 archaeological farm visit .

The farm occupies part of the upper Cothi Valley, a landscape of dispersed farms, small irregular fields and scattered woodland, which gives way to Mynydd Mallaen higher up.

The area is known for its relict evidence of Roman and later gold mining and its considerable landscape importance is recognised by its inclusion on The Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (HLW (D) 8). This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation project (Historic Landscape Character Areas – HLCAs - are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape), and the farm falls between areas 242: Cwrt-y-cadno and 246: Banc Llwynceiliog.

The area once lay within Cwmwd Caeo of Cantref Mawr, which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. Within this area the pattern of small irregular fields is unlike that in neighboring areas where enclosure appears to have been a creation of the Dolaucothi estate, and may be Medieval or early Post-Medieval in date. The Dolaucothi estate did, however, impact on the area in a number of ways. It contains four significant gentry houses, all associated with the estate to varying degrees, of which Llandre was one. The house was in 1701 the home of a branch of the Johnes of Dolaucothi and was later held in joint ownership with Abermangoed (Jones 1987, 103).

The Cothi valley road had long been an important drovers route, and a chapel was constructed alongside the road at Cwrt-y-cadno. A school had been added by the late 19th-century but despite these focii and the patronage of the estate, the settlement village never developed as a nucleation with dwellings. There has been little recent development but there are late 20th-century coniferous plantations on Allt Dinbeth and Alt Ty'n-y-coed (based on Ludlow & Murphy 2000).

Full descriptions of the relevant HLCAs are provided at the end of this report and their distribution is illustrated on Figure 4 below.

## **Archaeological and Historic Content**

The importance of the area lies in its relict evidence of Roman and later gold mining. Traversing the home farm holding is a well-preserved section of leat. The leat would serve at least two separate tanks and reservoirs, supplying water for the "hushing" process where a flood of water was released to expose mineral veins. It is a combination of excavated evidence, analogy with other Roman mine sites and accounts of the large-scale use of water in Roman mining that have led to these features being assigned a Roman date.

The place-name Allt Dinbeth (PRN 45941) does hint at early settlement however in the Din element in Dinbeth which, combined with its form and location, is suggestive of it being the location of an Iron Age hillfort. There is no concrete evidence of any defensive earthwork in the hilltop however.

Another potentially significant site is a mound (PRN 1951) on Pen-lan-dolau. The mound is described as being turf covered, approximately 0.2m high and 4m in diameter. Its interpretation is uncertain although possible explanations could include a clearance cairn or a ploughed down round barrow. Evidence of further funerary activity is suggested by the "beddau" place-name element of Tre-beddau in the east of the farmstead which is usually associated with Christian rather than prehistoric burial sites and may hint at the presence of round barrows in the vicinity in past times.

Much of the historic significance of the farm is centred on the farmstead itself. Landre was clearly a residence of some standing and is mentioned in 1701 as being the home of a branch of the Johnes of Dolaucothi and was later held in joint ownership with Abermangoed (Jones 1987, 103).

The recorded archaeological content of the farm is described in detail in the gazetteer below.

## **Key Objective**

The management priority for this farm is to retain the landscape continuity, through the sympathetic maintenance of field boundaries, and through the upkeep of traditional buildings.

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## B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

### **General requirements**

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

**"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.**

**"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for**

## Advice

**In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:**

### i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

**Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.**

#### **Location and description:**

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
1	<b>DOLAUCOTHI ROMAN AQUEDUCT</b> <a href="#">(94220)</a>	Roman aqueduct; leat	SN67984266	A		Specific

This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Cm 20, section L). A well preserved surviving section of leat (PRN 1947) that supplied the Roman gold mines at Dolacothi. This section of leat was seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit to be fenced off from the surrounding pasture and is now under thick, largely impenetrable woodland and scrub. No evidence for earthworks could be found.



*(Left) Fenced off area of woodland to left of road encloses the scheduled area (Cm20), now virtually impenetrable (right).*

<b>PEN LAN-DOLAU</b> <a href="#">(1951)</a>	<b>Unknown mound</b>	<b>SN66404226</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Generic</b>
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A mound of unknown significance, described as being turf covered, approximately 0.2m high and 4m in diameter. Its interpretation is uncertain although possible explanations could include a clearance cairn or a ploughed down round barrow. The site was not seen during the Tir gofal archaeological farm visit.



**ALLT DINBETH ([45941](#)) Iron Age? hillfort? SN67414262 U**

**Generic**

Allt Dinbeth is a prominent hill in the upper Cothi valley. Its form, location and name (with regard to the Din- element in Dinbeth) are suggestive of it being the location of an Iron Age hillfort. A Meridian Airmaps aerial photograph of 1955 shows that there may have been some earthworks on the northern side of the hill, but afforestation, woodland growth and recent land improvement have altered the appearance of the hilltop and there is no concrete surface evidence of any defensive earthwork on the hilltop.



*Looking west towards Allt Dinbeth (PRN 45941)*

The significance of the place name therefore remains somewhat enigmatic (RPS 26.09.2002)

Allt Dinbeth is a prominent hill at 280m above sea level. Its form, location and name (with regard to the Din-element in Dinbeth) are suggestive of it being the location of an Iron Age defended enclosure. However, no earthworks have ever been identified and the 2007 site visit recorded no trace of any earthworks on the summit, or in the vicinity of the area. The summit of the hill is under pasture, and is grazed by sheep. The hill slopes have very recently been de-forested (F Murphy November 2007)

Similarly, no earthworks were evident during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit. The southern slopes are under thick, broadleaf woodland while the northern slopes, once under coniferous woodland, appear to be under a process of deforestation, with a trackway carved into the eastern side of the hill. The treeless plateau top is under pasture, with occasional exposed natural rock outcrops.



*Looking south, down the Cothi Valley, from the top of Allt Dinbeth*

[\(93887\)](#)

**Post-Medieval  
guide post**

**SN67104205 C**

**Generic**

The abbreviation "G.P." given on the 1906 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map indicates that a guide post exists or once existed at this location. This guide post was not found during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit and it is presumed to have been removed.

[\(93888\)](#)

**Post-Medieval  
letter box**

**SN67094202 C**

**Generic**

The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1906) marks the abbreviation "L.B." close to Llandre Farmstead suggesting that a letter box may have been set into the wall of one of the buildings. The letterbox was seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit, set within the rear wall of the former milking parlour and still in use.



*Victorian post box at Llandre Farm*

[\(93889\)](#)

**Post-Medieval saw  
pit**

**SN68544247 C**

**Generic**

In a forestry plantation some 150m or so metres to the east of Glan-meddyg farmstead the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map marks a saw pit. The plantation is now gone and it is not clear if the saw pit survives. The site was not visited during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm survey.

**LLANDRE** [\(93891\)](#)

**Post-Medieval  
pond**

**SN67054206 C**

**Generic**

A former pond behind Llandre farmhouse, marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). It is not known what survives of the pond today. The location of this pond was seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit. It lies beneath the farmhouse lawn and is presumed to have been infilled and no obvious earthwork was discernable.

**DOLAUCOTHI ROMAN  
AQUEDUCT** [\(94221\)](#)

**Roman aqueduct;  
leat**

**SN68114272 U**

**Generic**

Non-scheduled section of Roman aqueduct (PRN 1947). It is not clear what survives of the aqueduct at this location. The line of the leat can be assumed to veer southwards away from the road and to pass roughly through a small building shown at the end of a track which runs to the west of the next field to the west. On the other side of the next stream, it must roughly follow the contour, theoretically just below the rather irregular field boundaries, round to the next stream above Maes-moi (HB, 2009).

The area was seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit to be under pasture and sloping down to the north. A possible break in slope was picked up, running parallel to the road, but it wasn't distinct

enough to be positively identified as the line of the leat. It is probable that ongoing improvements to the pasture will have helped to obscure potential earthworks.

**DOLAUCOTHI ROMAN Roman aqueduct; SN68334260 U Generic**  
**AQUEDUCT ([94443](#)) leat**

Unscheduled segment of Roman aqueduct showing up as a cropmark on recent aerial photographs. Links to aqueduct PRN 8884. Recorded as part of a Tir Gofal consultation defining that part of the aqueduct that passes through Llandre Farm (PRN 64982). It is not known if any earthworks survive on the ground.

The area was seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological site visit to be under pasture.



*Looking southwest across indistinct linear earthwork.*

No distinct earthworks were recorded but there was an ephemeral linear earthwork running downslope, southwest-northeast, and curving off towards the west some 4.0metres wide and 0.30m deep. It is not certain whether this was an antiquated earthwork or the line of a modern field drain.

## **Historic Environment Objectives:**

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

### **Generic Management Prescriptions** - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of



monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.

6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.

7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).

8. Do not burn materials on site.

9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.

10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

### **Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.**

The following individual sites and monuments are subject to specific management prescriptions which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

#### **Site 1 on MAP 1**

**DOLAUCOTHI ROMAN AQUEDUCT ([94220](#)) SN67984266**

*In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.*

This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cm 20) and management recommendations for the site were sought from Cadw.

Cadw have confirmed that the scheduled stretch of the aqueduct within the farm boundary is now fenced out from the adjoining field and covered in thorns. The extent of the archaeology is unknown and the Cadw Field Monument Warden has no record of it being tested by excavation. Cadw have provided no specific management recommendations.

## **ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:**

### **Location and Description:**

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
<b>LLANDRE</b> <a href="#">(93886)</a>	<b>Post-Medieval farmstead</b>	<b>SN67054203</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Generic</b>

Farmstead depicted on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, with the farm buildings in a U-plan layout and the house facing away from the buildings a short distance to the west. Modern farm buildings lie to the south and east. The U-plan layout at Llandre is still in use and these traditional buildings were recorded during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit. They include a milking parlour, stock shed, cow shed, threshing barn, stable and cart shed set around three sides of a concrete yard. Modern buildings have been added to the complex, particularly to the southeast, and the farmhouse stands separately to the northwest. The buildings are of rubble-stone construction with dressed stone quoins, gable-ended, slate-roofed and slate weather-boarded. Door and windows have yellow brick dressings and all joinery and guttering is painted red. The farm is currently maintained by the National Trust and all the buildings are in good condition.



*Looking south, the Llandre farmstead complex (PRN 93886)*

The northernmost building of the complex is two storeys high and has three wide doorways in the facade, now consolidated in concrete, with yellow brick arched dressings above. Two doorways have red, solid wood plank doors but the left-side door has been partially blocked up to create a narrower, open access. Internally the building is open to the roof timbers, comprising an A-frame construction affixed by iron pins. The internal walls and floor are concrete and there is a first floor timber-framed window in the north gable. Originally a probable cow shed, it is mainly now used for storage but the owner confirmed that it was once the milking parlour.



*The front and rear of the former cow shed/ milking parlour.*

There are two ventilation loops in the rear wall and a, now blocked-up, doorway once led through to a single-storey, single-pitched loose box. The pitch of the roof descends almost to the level of the adjacent roadway. There is a timber-framed window in the northwest facing wall and an external doorway entrance, with red-painted solid wood plank door, in the southeast facing wall. This building appears to be contemporarv with the cow shed/milking parlour. and is denicted on the 1888 OS map. but some red brick

within this latter wall suggests some later alteration although now obscured by corrugated-iron.

To the right of the milking parlour is a single storey shelter shed with four arched doorways in the facade, three with solid wood plank, red-painted doors and the fourth (second from the left) now blocked up. The interior is open to the A-framed roof timbers and concrete-floored.



*The façade to the shelter shed*

The building is divided across the middle by a wooden feeding trough and hayrack. The right-hand end of this building comprises a separate loosebox, divided from the main shelter shed by a wall, with a doorway and window in the facade, partially obscured by a modern kennel block.

Adjoining the shelter shed at right angles, and aligned northeast-southwest, is a lofted cow shed. Its facade is obscured by the modern, breezeblock kennels apart from the red-painted, timber-framed, solid wood-plank door. The interior has a concrete floor and five metal cattle stalls are positioned down the length of the building, with a drainage channel behind them and a feeding channel in front. There is a latticed window within the northeast facing gable, below a hayloft access, and a wide doorway, again with a red solid wood-planked door, in the rear wall, leading out to the cattle yard. A further doorway, and a first floor window, in the southwest facing end wall leads through into the threshing barn. Both have red brick dressings and may be later insertions.

The threshing barn is a two-storey building with tall, doubledoor apertures opposite one another in the facade and rear wall and ventilation loops. The interior is open to the roof timbers and the floor appears cobbled, although much was obscured by straw.



*(Left) The Llandre threshing barn and (right) interior of the threshing barn showing machinery remnant*

The 1888 OS map depicts a possible horse-engine behind the threshing-barn, near the southwest corner, in an area now overlain by modern buildings. However, the remnant of a belt-driven threshing machine remains in situ along the northeast end wall. The rear and southwest gable of the threshing barn are now abutted by modern cattle sheds.

At right-angles to, but not abutting, the threshing barn is a possible single-storey stable or cow shed. There are two split "stable-type" solid wood-plank doors within the facade, a ventilation loop in the southeast facing gable and a latticed window in the rear wall. The floor is concrete and there are three metal cattle stalls run the length of the building, with a drainage channel behind and feeding channel in front. The northwest end of this building is separated by a supporting wall and comprises a cart shed, with a double-door entrance, now covered by red-painted corrugated-iron gates. To the right is a modern breezeblock double garage extension and the rear of the cow shed/stable and cart shed is abutted by modern buildings.



*The northeast facing range, comprising possible stable/ cow shed and cart shed, with modern garage extension at far end.*

## **Historic Environment Objectives:**

The purpose of the management is to:

- Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
- Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.
- Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

## **Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2**

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and

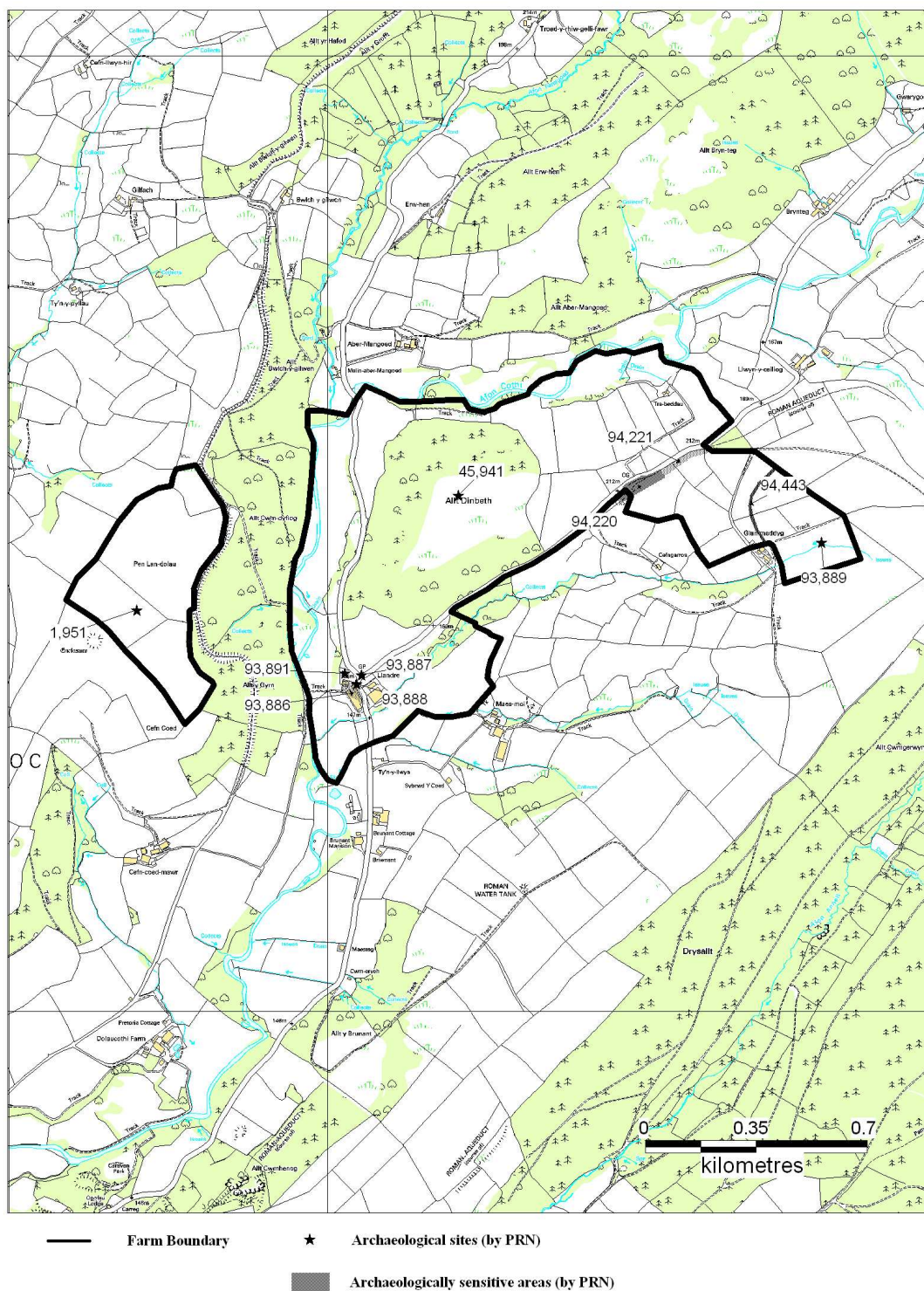
finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)

8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

### **iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:**

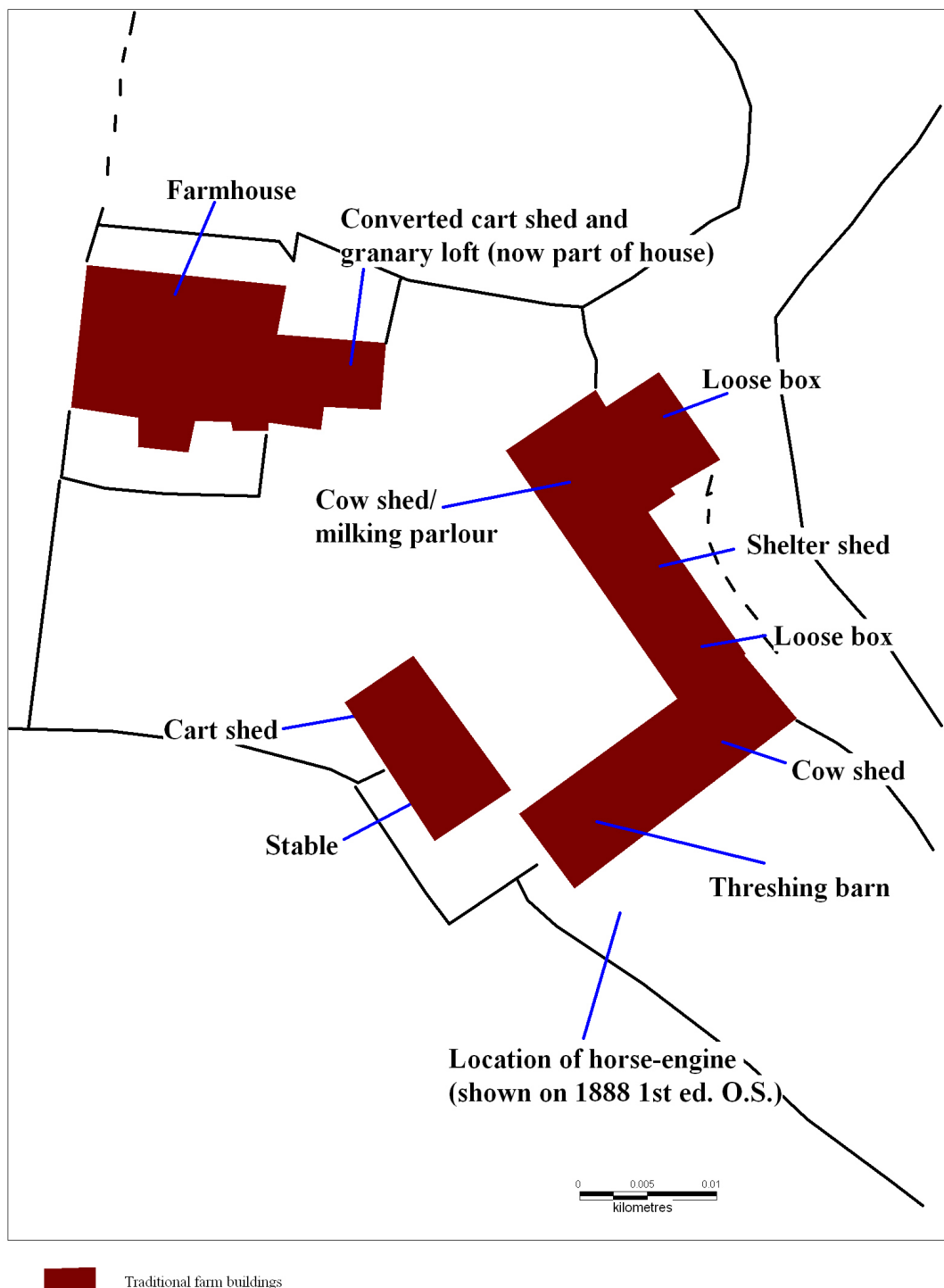
**There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for the application area**





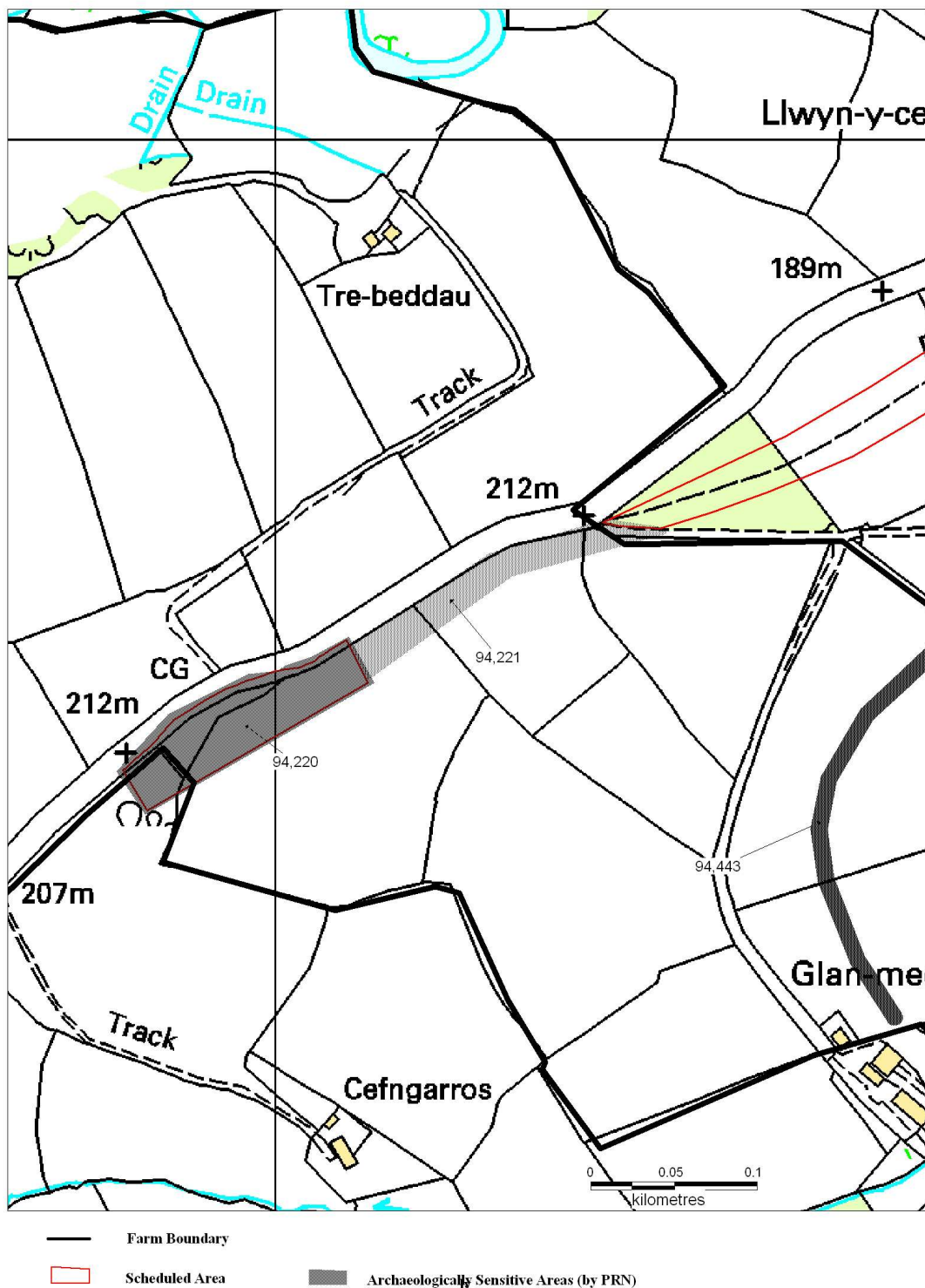
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Fig 1: Location map of the farm boundaries, showing the recorded sites of archaeological interest



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**Fig 2: Plan showing the surviving traditional buildings within Llandre farmstead**



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Fig 3: Map showing the possible location of Roman aqueduct sections and the extent of the scheduled area.





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*This HE2 report supersedes the information given in the [HE1 report](#) for this farm.*

*Sources consulted:*

**Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire**

**Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.09, 25"**

**Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.09, 25"**

**Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.10, 25"**

**Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.10, 25"**

**Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.13, 25"**

**Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1906 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.13, 25"**

**Cadw/ ICOMOS 1998 Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments**

**Murphy, K, and Ludlow, N, 2000, 'Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation: Characterisation of the four landscapes on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust**

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: DOLAUCOTHI**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 242 CWRT-Y-CADNO**

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 689435**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 570.60**

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#### **Historic Background**

A narrow area following the valley floor of the Afon Cothi and its tributaries the Nant Dâr, Nant-y-garth and Afon Frongoch. It once lay within Cwmwd Cao of Cantref Mawr, which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. The southern flanks of the valley bear physical evidence of Roman gold mining in the form of leats and aqueducts that supplied the workings found in Area 243. Within this area the pattern of small irregular fields is unlike that in Area 241 where enclosure appears to have been a creation of the Dolaucothi estate, and may be Medieval or early Post-Medieval in date, like the ridge-and-furrow observed in similar fields in the neighbouring Area 248. The place-name Ty'n-y-coed suggests the former presence of a contemporary settlement. The Dolaucothi estate did, however, impact on the area in a number of ways. It contains four significant gentry houses, all associated with the estate to varying degrees, of which Abermangoed had been established by the late 17th-century when 'the capital messuage and lands of Tir Abermangoed' belonged to the Jones family (Jones 1987, 3), but reverted to the Dolaucothi estate by 1733 and bears the architectural signature of the estate. Llandre Griffith meanwhile, was in 1701 the home of a branch of the Johnes of Dolaucothi and was later held in joint ownership with Abermangoed (Jones 1987, 103). Pant-coy, which burnt down in 1839, was owned in 1840 by the Earl of Cawdor but became part of the Dolaucothi estate and was the home of John Harries (1785-1839) and Henry Harries (1816-1862), wizards, soothsayers and conjurers, well-known throughout south Wales. Cefngarros was another estate farm with the architectural signature, formerly renowned for the nearby sulphur springs. The Cothi valley road had long been an important drovers route, and a chapel was constructed alongside the road at Cwrt-y-cadno. A school had been added by the late 19th-century but despite these focii and the patronage of the estate, the settlement village never



developed as a nucleation with dwellings. There has been little recent development but there are late 20th-century coniferous plantations on Allt Dinbeth and Alt Ty'n-y-coed.

### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

Cwrt-y-cadno character area lies in the upper Cothi valley and includes the valley floor which lies between 150 m and 190 m, and the valley sides that have been enclosed into fields up to approximately 220 m. Essentially this is a landscape of dispersed farms, small irregular fields and scattered woodland. The small irregular fields are divided by earth banks topped by hedges. Apart from along roads, lanes and tracks the hedges are generally in poor condition and are either overgrown, lines of straggling bushes or derelict. Wire fences provide the main stock-proof boundaries. There are many distinctive hedgerow trees, and these together with the numerous deciduous woods (particularly prominent on steep valley sides) and the several small- and medium-sized conifer plantations lend a wooded aspect to many parts of this area. Farmland land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with small pockets of rougher grazing and rushy ground. Transport links are local only - minor roads, lanes and tracks. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms and other dwellings. There is no aggregate settlement. Farmhouses and outbuildings of the Dolaucothi estate provide a distinctive architectural signature. These are 'pattern-book' buildings dating to the 1850s, and are built of coursed stone and have casement windows with diamond panes. Farmhouses are of two storeys and three bays, and the central bay normally contains the front door projecting forward of the facade with a separate gable. The farm buildings of these farms tend to have a semi-formal arrangement in relation to the house, i.e. around a courtyard. Earlier farmhouses in the area are generally of late 18th- or early 19th-century date, are of a similar style and size to the estate examples but in a vernacular tradition, and usually rendered. Farm buildings associated with these have an informal arrangement with the house. Central to the area is Cwrt-y-cadno chapel. There is virtually no modern residential development.

Recorded archaeology comprises Roman leats and aqueducts, a house platform and a possible Medieval/Post-Medieval settlement site, a possible cemetery of unknown date and an unknown cropmark.

There are a number of distinctive buildings, many of them bearing the signature of the Dolaucothi estate. Cefn Coed Mawr, Grade II listed, is mid-late 18th-century, remodelled in the later 19th century, with good vernacular features and group value with its farm outbuildings. The barn is also Grade II listed, as is the early 19th-century cowshed with an integral lofted stable. Cefngarros, from c.1845, is typical of several former Dolaucothi estate farmhouses in the area and Grade II listed. Brynteg is Grade II listed, built in 1843 and probably influenced by the architectural pattern-books; the barn range is also Grade II listed. Pant-coy is Grade II listed being a late 19th-century cottage formed from earlier farm building; the previous house burnt down in 1839. The outbuildings are also Grade II listed. Cwrt-y-cadno chapel, built in 1899, is of good quality, adjacent to a K6 telephone box. There are several fords and bridges, and mill sites.

This area is well defined to the south, north and east where it borders steep valley sides, forestry plantations or open moorland (Areas 245, 247, 249 and 250). Definition is less good to the southwest where it merges with Area 241.

### **Conservation priorities**

Pumpsaint village is a Conservation area; any development must respect this status. The old house site and gardens are owned by the National Trust, who have formulated their own management plans. Outside the village and park the main priorities concern the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges, as this is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

**Ground photographs:** 109

**Aerial photographs:** 7, 10

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: DOLAUCOTHI**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 246 BANC LLWYNCEILIOG**

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 682416**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 306.30**

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#### **Historic Background**

An area of planted coniferous forest occupying the western flank of Mynydd Malláen. It once lay within Cwmwd Cao of Cantref Mawr which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. It is an upland area, now enclosed with large, regular fields which are late in origin, having been established since the tithe survey of 1840. There is now no settlement, which may reflect the predominant situation during the historic period, but an abandoned farmstead has been recorded. There is evidence for prehistoric occupation in the form of Bronze Age ritual features (round barrows) and the area is crossed by Roman aqueducts leading to Area 243.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area comprises the high south-east valley side of the upper Cothi valley. It lies between 180 m and 330 m. The area has been enclosed into large, fairly regular fields by earth banks and hedges, but these are now mostly redundant - the hedges either gone or marked by straggling lines of bushes and small trees - and wire fences provide stock-proof barriers. Much of the land is improved grazing, but there is rougher ground on some steep slopes and at higher levels, particularly at the northeastern end of the area where larger former fields merge into unenclosed moorland. There are stands of ancient deciduous woodland on very steep slopes, and a couple of small conifer plantations are also present. Rough tracks and paths are the only transport links. There are no settlements. The earthworks of Roman aqueducts which traverse the valley side are distinct elements of the landscape. Overall the appearance of this area is of improved pasture divided by wire fences, with woodland on steep slopes.

Recorded archaeology comprises two Bronze Age round barrows, a Roman reservoir and aqueducts, and an abandoned farmstead.

There are no standing buildings.

Banc Llwynceiliog is a distinct character area. It provides a buffer between farms and fields on the valley floor (Areas 241 and 242), and higher open moorland (Area 247) and upland forestry (Area 245). To the southwest lies the distinctive area of Dolaucothi Gold Mines (Area 243).

#### **Conservation priorities**

There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area. It is probably desirable to allow the degraded old boundaries to remain in their current state so allowing the area to return to open moorland/pasture. Consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland.

**Ground photographs: 113**

**Aerial photographs: 10, 12, 13**